

9 January 1989

Dear Jean and Kiyoko,

I'm bashing off this letter after receiving yours, Jean, in the hope it may reach you before the Coalition meeting on 14 Jan.

First of all, we greatly appreciate your decision to give us a fax, and we look forward to getting it soon. In a recent letter to Aki, I said we'd need to consider first the running costs, but since the machine is now on its way, we'll have to grapple with that. Funding could be a problem this year (it always is!), and what I haven't done yet is to discover what extra costs are involved in running a fax, especially if we will need to run an extra phone. I suppose we can say that this won't be the item that will bring us to the brink of bankruptcy. (I shouldn't make it sound so dramatic.)

The area where there is a real problem of funding is the Parliamentarians for ET. We made an application for funds to the European Fund for H. Rights and were turned down. They say we can apply again, because they always get more applications than they can fund. We'll now try a small agency in Holland, which would not be good for more than about £1,000. But apart from that, we've not yet come up with bright ideas about funding. We reckon that, budgetting for the secretary to work one day a week, we would need around £3,000 for the first year (at least).

Now, I should quickly add that I'm raising this on my personal initiative and have not discussed it with Avebury. The problem is, he feels very reluctant to ask the other two founding members to help with funds because his own group, the Parl HR Group, has absolutely no money for this kind of thing. Nor does he want to ask MPs who join to pay a subs fee. If they contributed to all things they belong to, he says, the costs would be very high. So, with no cash at all, what's happening at the moment is that Tapol is paying all the running costs, which is mostly postage (quite a bit already), photocopying and the amount of time I put in as secretary. So my personal question is: would there be any funds available in Japan? From the Dietmen's Forum? From other sources? Perhaps, a small contribution to keep us going for the first six months? I am not raising this with Eda-san (though of course you can) because that would presume I was doing it for Avebury. Perhaps you could consider this when you meet at the weekend.

It's exciting to know someone will be coming to the Copenhagen meeting. It promises to be a very important meeting. I hear Jose Gutteres will be there for Fretilin, and a sizable delegation will come from Sweden (they've not attended for ages).

I'll send you separate cover some more reports about the arrests in Dili. It's quite difficult to disentangle the abuse side from the internal conflict side.

My very best wishes to you both and to all friends as well for a Happy New Year. And thank you both for your warm expressions of friendship.

Yours affectionately,

